

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011
MEADOWEDGE COUNTRY CLUB
WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Vice Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Chairman, Town of Islip
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Richard Hollborn	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Dawn Hopkins	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Joseph Montuori	Commissioner
Tracey Bellone	Deputy Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Legislator Edward P. Romaine	Suffolk County Legislature
Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Dept.
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property, Acquisitions and Management
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office
Tom Jones	Suffolk Committee for Camping
Richard Hardy	Suffolk Committee for Camping

PUBLIC PORTION

There were two members of the public present. They did not wish to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18th, 2010

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Trustee Engel was not present for this vote)

PRESENTATION BY LEGISLATOR ROMAIN

Introductory Resolution No. 2240-2010 – To Improve the Conditions of County Rental Properties

Legislator Romaine said he was open to suggestions and is looking for the Trustees input on this resolution. Legislator Romaine believes there is a need for a dedicated fund for county rental properties and for the historical properties as well. The Parks Trustees would be responsible for decisions on how the money would be administered, distributed and spent. The Legislator reported that the bathrooms at Inlet Pond County Park in Greenport are less than adequate and in need of repair. The Audubon Society rents the bottom floor of the building.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone clarified the rental agreement with the Audubon Society at Inlet Pond County Park. The Audubon Society rents the first floor and this past year, Parks created an apartment on the second floor. The Audubon's agreement with Parks is a no-cost agreement.....they do not pay us rent to use that facility. In exchange, they are supposed to provide improvements to that location. The Audubon Society has just proposed some cosmetic improvements and Parks is going to do the infrastructure improvements on the bathrooms.

Commissioner Montuori said all but two of the rental properties are rented and he thinks they are in very good shape.

Legislator Romaine said he was thinking of filing an amendment to his resolution to make the rental monies not only available to the Board for rental properties, but make those funds available for historic structures. Legislator Romaine said he will provide language in his resolution to reflect these changes. Once this resolution passes at the Parks Committee meeting, it will be put up for a vote in the Legislature.

Trustee Dawson asked if this money is in a dedicated fund, would the Legislature look to take money from other budget lines in the Parks Department? Legislature Romaine responded he hoped that would not be the case. Legislator Romaine said if we created a dedicate fund, does that mean that the County Executive or the Legislature could take away money from the Parks Operating Budget; that is possible. However, without speaking for his colleagues, he believes that would not be an issue, but he can't guarantee it. If that is done, the Trustees can go to Legislator Romaine and he will make the fight that Parks get the funding that we should have gotten.

Trustee McKay asked about the Trustees approving all disbursements from the fund. Since we meet just once a month, what would happen if an emergency repair was needed? Legislator Romaine responded that there would be funding for this in the regular budget. Trustee McKay asked for assurance that the money in budget line 7510 will continue. Legislator Romaine responded "hopefully". He said he would make a commitment for the 2011 number; if it's not in the budget, he will put an amendment into the budget to keep it at that level. He could not tell the Trustees how his colleagues will vote or whether the County Executive will veto it. All he can commit to is his best effort to see that the money remains.

Trustee Sickles asked the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner if a repair to rental properties (i.e. supplies and building materials) comes out of the operating budget line. If we now have a dedicated fund, can you still submit a budget request? Trustee Sickles said he would hate to see Parks Department get hammered in another line to make up this one.

Legislator Romaine said the Operating Budget is presented by the County Executive and the County Executive may have that point of view. All Legislator Romaine can guarantee and commit to is that the money that is in this account in 2010 – should it be reduced; he will make up the difference. He will put in an amendment and convince his colleagues to make up the difference and do the right thing.

Trustee Engel said the money in the Operating Budget is not the only money that is allocated to historic structures. She said that should this legislation be approved in March, we would have this funding from March through December. That money would, in fact, come out of the Parks Department 2011 budget. The County

Executive and Legislature did pass a very lean budget across the board and that funding would come from Parks. It would not come from the General Fund. The Parks Department has already counted on that money and would take the hit this year. The County Executive's position would recommend that any change of this type would be discussed as part of budget negotiations for the 2012 budget. It would be a very heavy hit for the Parks Department this year.

Legislator Romaine asked if the monies collected for rent go into an Enterprise Fund. Trustee Engel responded "no". Legislator Romaine asked how it could be charged off to the Parks Budget. The money collected from these funds goes to the General Fund, not the Parks Budget, so why would the Parks Department take the hit. Trustee Engel responded that a certain amount of revenue is for the Parks Department, and that money wouldn't be materializing. The Parks Department revenue comes in without an Enterprise Fund and goes to the General Fund. If this amount of revenue comes in from Parks, this is how much we budget for Parks. Legislature Romaine asked Trustee Engel if she could show the page on the budget document where it says that. Trustee Engel responded "no".

Commissioner Montuori said he would like to see this worked on for next year, not this year.

Legislator Romaine said if it's the consensus of the Board, he would amend this legislation so it would go into effect on January 1, 2012. As it relates to the argument that the money would come out of the Parks Budget, that would require an amendment to the Operating Budget that the County Executive would have to submit to the Legislature.

Legislator Romaine said he would make an amendment to his resolution that would take effect in 2012. He will recommend that this 1) apply to rental and historical structures and 2) take effect January 1, 2012 and 3) make a commitment that if the Parks Operating funds are diminished from 2010 levels, we contact him before October 15th and he will immediately put in an amendment and/or seek to have that money included back in as part of the omnibus process.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone said the way the legislation reads now, it states "all rents received from the licensing or leasing of buildings owned by the County." It sounds like it would include places like Coindre Hall or Lessings. Legislature Romaine said we should send him the language change we want reflected in his resolution and he will make the adjustment. His resolution refers to rental income. Trustee Engel said she would check with the County Attorney's office and will forward language to the Parks Department and Legislature Romaine. Legislator Romaine will forward the amended resolution to the Trustees and Parks Department.

Trustee Engel thanked Legislator Romaine for considering the County Executive's position on this issue.

A motion to consider a Trustees Resolution requesting that amended I.R. 2240-2010 be adopted was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Cardillo.

Trustee Sickles said that he would like to review the amended resolution first. It still has to be written out.

A motion to table a Trustees Resolution regarding amended I.R. 2240-2011 until the Trustees can review a hard copy was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Introductory Resolution No. 1027-2011 – To Amend the User Fee Schedule for Suffolk County Parks to Implement an Unlimited Annual 9-Hole Golf Pass for Seniors who are Veterans

Legislator Romaine reported that he serves on the Veterans Committee and they had requests from some World War II veterans who play 9-hole golf indicating they would prefer an annual fee as opposed to them paying every time they play. Based on that request, Legislator Romaine drafted a resolution that would give an annual pass for \$400.00 for weekday golf effective for one year from the purchase date for seniors who are veterans of World War II and seniors who served in World War II for a nation that was an ally of the United States and is now a U.S. citizen.

Trustee Cardillo expressed his concern that this could be a slippery slope because other veterans (i.e. Korean War vets, Vietnam vets, etc.) may also want to be included in this legislation.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone said the veterans would need to have a green key card to make a reservation. It doesn't say that in the resolution. Legislator Romaine said he would include language in this legislation to reflect that the veterans would need a green key card.

A motion to approve amended I.R. No. 1027-2011 was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Trustee Engel was not available for votes going forward).

Legislator Romaine said he hopes to have Trustee appointments from Shelter Island and Southold in March.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2011

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Copies of the Capital Budget were distributed to the Trustees.

A motion to approve the Capital Budget was made by Trustee Dawson and seconded by Trustee White. The Capital Budget was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

Commissioner Montuori reported on the following:

- There was 1 (one) bidder for the Indian Island Restaurant RFP. We will try to have someone there before the season opens.
- We had a meeting with Long Island Dog last week. The meeting went well and we discussed many issues. L.I. Dog came up with many ideas we will try to implement.
- The new reservation system will be up March 1, 2011. We are keeping the public well informed.
- We did hire a new person for the golf course and we are still working on getting 3 more laborer positions.

Deputy Commissioner Bellone reported she will send out a draft, via email, of the Trustees 2011 Meeting Schedule with suggested meeting locations.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Sickles said a couple of months ago he mentioned an effort by the Town of Southampton to inventory all the cemeteries within the township. There was at least one that the town owned that was within a Suffolk County Park (Hubbard County Park). Trustee Sickles contacted the Town Historian and brought in the email he received from the Town Historian and requested that it be given to Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services. The town is looking for cooperation in terms of access and, if possible, copies of any photographs and records the Parks Department currently has on the cemetery. Deputy Commissioner Bellone asked that the request be put in writing. Trustee Sickles said the Town Historian will follow up with Richard Martin.

Trustee McKay said he passed Fuchs Pond on his way over to the Trustees meeting and there were people going in there with a couple of vehicles and carrying plastic buckets. The construction fence that had a sign on it "Trail Closed" was taken down. Can someone check into that?

Trustee McKay asked if the engineering study for Coindre Hall is going to CEQ this week. Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded it went before CEQ this week. They have to take down 2 chimneys and part of the tower due to structural concerns. They will build replicas.

Trustee Hopkins asked about the status of the RFP for the West Hills Stables. Deputy Commissioner Bellone responded that the RFP Committee made a recommendation and that recommendation has to now go before the Legislature.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17th, 2011 at Meadowedge in West Sayville.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hollborn. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.